

NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS

COMMUNICATIONS:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What products are covered under the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program?

WIC covered non-medical products include: “regular” formulas, hypoallergenic formulas, soy formulas, Boost Kid Essentials 1.5, Boost Kid Essentials, Boost Kid Essentials 1.5 with fiber, Nutren Jr., Nutren Jr with Fiber, Pediasure, Pediasure with Fiber, Pediasure 1.5 Cal, Pediasure 1.5 Cal with Fiber, Pediasure Enteral Formula, Pediasure Enteral Formula with Fiber and scFOS, Pediasure Sidekicks, Compleat Pediatric. These products are not generally covered by MaineCare, either taken orally or through a tube.

Under what circumstances can members continue to receive nutritional products?

- For adults and children with **diagnoses** that support the need for additional nutritional products may be covered with PA approval. Examples include:
 - For members that have a diagnoses of congenital heart disease, renal disease, including WAGR syndrome, inborn errors of metabolism (includes PKU and homocystinuria), or chronic pulmonary disease, malabsorption (includes decreased pancreatic enzyme production, CF, cholestatic liver disease including biliary atresia, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency) regardless of with or without a tube, a PA is required for nutritional products that are **NOT** covered by WIC.
 - If the member has inborn errors of metabolism regardless of age, whether oral or tube fed.
 - Over age 5 (adult or child), **if tube fed**, any medically reasonable amount of nutritional product including Boost, Pediasure, Ensure, Jevity, Carnation Instant Breakfast, etc.

- For premature infants up to age 9 months post natal age, specialized formula (Enfacare or Neosure) may be covered with PA approval. If on regular formula, send to WIC.
 - For members that have other diagnosis than those specified above, that the provider believes supports the need of nutritional products they may submit a PA.
 - Food thickeners are covered when medically necessary with or without feeding tube.
- **Are nutritional products covered for members that reside in a facility?**
 - **-They are not billable by the DME provider if** a member resides in a facility, NF (Sec. 67), ICF-MR/NH, or ICF-MR/Group Home (Sec. 50) nutritional products are covered as part of the homes reimbursement
- **Are products used for caloric supplementation covered?**
 - If the member is over age 5, no tube, and only intent is caloric supplementation, the nutritional supplement is not a covered service. Non covered products used for caloric supplementation may include infant formulas, including soy and hypoallergenic formulas, Boost, Jevity, Carnation Instant Breakfast, TwoCal HN, Replete, Nutren, Nutren Jr, Probalance, Pediasure, Isocal, Ultracal, Choice, Peptamen or any of these with fiber.
- **If I am a pharmacy provider, how do I bill for nutritional supplements?**
 - Nutritional products are no longer reimbursable using the Point of Sale pharmacy system.
 - The provider must bill the appropriate HCPC service code on the 1500 form.
 - The provider must bill with an NPI that is enrolled with a DME specialty.
- **If I am a member, and my pharmacy tells me that they can no longer supply nutritional products, what do I do?**
 - The member should discuss the need for nutritional products with their physician. A prior authorization will be required for these products.
 - The member must use a provider that is enrolled as a DME dealer with MaineCare to provide the nutritional products. Some pharmacies are also DME dealers.

- **How do I know if the pharmacy I use is also a DME Dealer?**
 - Member Services can identify pharmacies that also provide DME services or DME providers and assist the member with identifying a pharmacy or DME dealer.
 - Provider Services can assist providers to identify if the pharmacy used by the member is also a DME dealer or assist to identify other pharmacy or DME providers within the desired area.
 - You may ask your pharmacy if they are also a DME dealer in the MaineCare program.